

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

As we move into the 21st century, we in the Department of Transportation (DOT) strive to maximize our financial resources to better support the Administration's goals of improving the Department's financial management systems and programs. To this end, we proudly submit our FY 1999 Financial Management Status Report & 5 Year Plan.

This report illustrates the accomplishments, status and plans of the activities of the DOT financial community, which is sponsored by the Department's Chief Financial Officers' Council and the Financial Management Committee. Using guidelines such as the government-wide financial management goals, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and related legislation, and DOT's Strategic Plan and Financial Management Visions, DOT has made clear headway in changing our business practices to increase our efficiencies. Our focus has been on upgrading our accounting system, achieving clean audit opinions on our financial statements, and capitalizing on the Internet environment. To improve financial management in DOT, we engaged in the following:

- ? Moved closer to completing implementation of the Delphi program, DOT's new integrated financial management systems environment.
- ? Initiated electronic business by introducing the capability of making payments for debts over the Internet with a credit card.
- ? Spearheaded web-based travel management services to improve service to Federal travelers and reduce transaction fee costs by half.
- ? Continued innovative financing techniques that supplement Federal funds with private and non-Federal public sector investment for transportation infrastructure.
- ? Made over 97% of employee salary payments by Electronic Fund Transfer, a 2 percent increase over last year.
- ? Saved approximately \$27 million in administrative costs in FY 1999 by using the Government Small Purchase Credit Card.

The new millenium brings much promise and hopes for the future of DOT's financial management. We look forward to the many challenges that this new age of innovation brings. We are committed to fostering an environment of positive change, one which will embrace technology to help us improve our way of doing business. By strategically posturing ourselves, we can make sound financial management decisions, capitalize on available resources, and deliver effective and efficient financial information.

Peter J. Basso
Chief Financial Officer